



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

Well, this is an issue and a half! Mavis Nickson's Memoirs have inspired old Swaffham Priorites (many thanks to John Coleman and Sylvia Short) to write in and tell us about their recollections of life in this village in times gone by. Many apologies that we can't yet publish John Coleman's (see Letters) maps and photo yet—they won't stand another round of scanning and printing and be still legible—and we've no room in this issue for a new attempt on the Dad's Army photo, so keep the correspondence coming and we'll try and get it right next time.

A few points from John Coleman's letter: first, the mysterious path that ran from Greenhead Road to the High Street—information very recently received indicates that this did indeed exist when Knight's Manor was a collection of dwellings, but it was always an 'unofficial' arrangement, much as the scoot through our garden, which involves a stiffish scramble over the back-gate, is for village children now.

As to *Cock Hill* (the 60's name for *Cage Hill*), this was because the Pub at the bottom of the hill was called *The Cock*, whereas the top of the hill was always called *Greenhead Hill* (another Pub?). The story goes that the Post Office objected in the strongest possible terms to the fact that so short a road should have two names, so a compromise was reached: the road should be called *Cage Hill*, on the grounds that the Cage was half way up (ish!). Is this true? More info please! Also, as to the origin of *The Railer*, the path running parallel to the High Street: it would be nice to have some more information about this as well, and maybe if this is its name, to put up a notice to this effect?

Welcome to Frank Readhead who joins Our Correspondents at the Parish Council (read his article, Page 10) although whether we can guarantee continued coverage of these meetings given the sorry state of affairs he reports (no sustenance) is quite another matter!

Note we have included an abbreviated Bus Service Timetable (p. 19). The service is actually *not that bad at all* — 29 mins to Drummer Street if you select the non-scenic route (not via Lode!) — beat that, Park & Riders!

Caroline Matheson

PS. Copy date for March: 14th promptly, please.

Cover Picture: Happy Valentine's Day!



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

More Memories

I was so interested to see a few back copies of the Swaffham Crier, lent to me by my sister.

We moved to Swaffham Prior in 1954, when I was 7 years old. We lived at Bramfield, on the High Street, opposite old Tom Cooper's shop. I moved away in 1969 and my parents moved in the early 70's.

A question was asked in the *Crier* as to whether there was a footpath from the High St to Greenhead Rd? I don't remember one, 'though I do remember playing in the fields before Green Head Road was built! The main footpath (we used to call it "the RAILER"), ran from the Churchyard, crossing Cage Hill (we called it 'Cock Hill') and coming out nearly opposite Manor Farm.

I have a copy of an old map which might be of interest: J. Chapman-PRE-ENCLOSURE CIRCA 1780 plus a photo taken from the air, dated 1946 (Fairview Grove is only half built).

As a lad I was a keen bird-watcher, and from 1959 to 1963 I kept a record of all nesting birds in Swaffham Prior. Before the marshy area near the Cricket Field was drained, Redshank used to nest there.

When the field was ploughed up, and hedges ripped out, the effect on the bird-life was quite startling.

Sorry about the poor photo-copies.

J Coleman

John B Coleman, 51 Daniells, Welwyn Garden City, Herts ALT 1QY

☎ 01707 332004

We'll try and get some better copies of the maps (see excerpt, front cover) and photo to reproduce in the magazine. Eds.

Dear Editors,

The Bells

Sorry I didn't make it to the party, but I stopped all the clocks in the house to save on electricity and decided to rely on the church bells. Bill Shakespeare's son went on and on about how much of a need there was for them but I think he ended up dedicating himself to his continued efforts to finish his new book, ("my way or the highway"). Anyway they are so quiet I didn't even hear them. If it hadn't been for the vicars car alarm, I would have missed evensong. Bill says they are quiet so they don't wake the little girl at number 52, but I asked her parents and they told me she's never in bed

before 8. (Would you buy a used car from THAT man?). The Holy Joes noticed too, cause they've decided to turn them up a bit, which is good news all round.

The local geriatric rave was cancelled at the last moment, so thousands of long haired attendees have moved their caravans from Station Road, and gone in search of one which serves booze. Absolute disaster, since I had a house full of old comrades, (yes I fitted a ramp for their wheelchairs) all ready to go, tanked up on cheap scotch and in desperate need of decibels and debauchery.

Tesco's is closing in the village next month, and there's a petition to close the pub, because people go there AND drink. All of which would never have happened if my plan to build 5000 new homes in the village had reached the council on time.

But the good news is that the football pitch is being readied for our golf practice this winter. The council has given the go-ahead so keep your wedge dry and your driver firm.

I'm reminded of the infamous words of Squatter (you remember him, fifth former with a limp)

Self satisfaction is a lonely thing, (and leads to blindness)

compromise creates mutual satisfaction (and leads to harmony)

complaining afterwards reflects a poor choice in partner (and leads to bitterness)

Got to run, its a long way to the co-op, and I've overslept again

All the best.

Tommy

Dear Editors

Burwell (Cambridge) & District Medical Trust

This is a (slightly amended) copy of an article submitted to *Clunch* (Burwell Village Magazine) by Bob Ratcliffe, the Trust Chairman.

The support that has been given to this is truly amazing. One constantly realises the generosity of Burwell and Swaffham Prior people.

The total amount raised since the Trust was formed in June 1996 is over £28,280, of which £25,622 has already been used to purchase equipment that is in constant use by the surgery. The most recent purchases are:—

(a) *A digital camera to photograph skin lesions, moles, rashes, etc. and to monitor the healing of leg ulcers. The photographs*

can be scanned into the electronic medical records and/or sent to a consultant with the referral letter. Eventually the photographs will be sent electronically direct to the hospital consultant.

(b) Replacement of seven existing ‘dumb’ terminals with PCs and printers, to update each work station, thus providing access to NHS net and email to facilitate referrals and direct scanning. This is a vital part of the process towards a paperless system and individual electronic medical records, as per the National Health Service framework and the NHS Government plan.

Mention must be made of “Barbara’s” shop. She has sold items for the Trust and raised over £3,700 in the past years but now wishes to step down from such willing work. The Trust thanks her and her daughter, Tina, for all they have done.

Others involved include The Fox Inn, those who save 2p coins and those who give Bob Ratcliffe £1 coins whenever they see him (“When Bob ‘s around give him a pound!”). With people like these we will still collect (and spend) so please join in with the Burwell Medical Trust to help keep the Burwell Surgery in the forefront of medical practice.

As you can see, the Trust has been able to purchase some very useful equipment for the Burwell Surgery enabling the doctors and nurses to treat all of their patients more efficiently. All this has been possible through generous donations from patients, past and present, who have given money to the Burwell and District Medical Trust.

If you would like more information about the Trust or other equipment already purchased please do give me a call.

Ruth Scovil (Trustee)

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior ☎ (01638) 743720

Dear Editors

A Village of Two Halves

I would be interested to hear Mr Everitt’s definition of ‘classy’ as it applies to only one end of Swaffham Prior, and as it relates to the appropriateness of placing of plastic salt and grit bins ‘at the other end of the High Street’.

Running through the possible rationales, I have been able to come up with only these:

1. That the ‘classy end’ of the village has a better class of road, not affected by frost; or

2. That the Gentlefolk at the 'classy end' would rather have frost on the road than unsightly grit at their end of the village;

3. Perhaps those same folk do not allow themselves to be troubled by the vagaries of the weather?

4. The 'classy end' might employ tradespeople to transport grit from 'the other end' to salt the 'classy end';

5. It may be that the inhabitants of the 'classy end' do not get out much in winter, and rely on tradespeople to deliver supplies to them. Those tradespeople would of course furnish themselves with hobnailed boots against the slippery frost, unless they had also been employed as in (4) above;

6. Frost? What frost?

If Mr Everitt or anyone has any ideas how to emulate effectively the 'classy end', I for one would welcome them - especially if it might serve to prevent having to go out at odd hours in cold weather to salt my steep and less classy section of road on frosty days. In order to ply my trade, I (and my neighbours) have had to use our plastic grit bin more than once this winter.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lewinski

PS put my name down for a Blues event *every* month, please.

Dear Editors,

Retirement

After more than thirty-two years as one of your local G.P.s the time has come for me to retire. It has been a privilege to live and work amongst you in Cambridgeshire, and my wife Frances and I shall continue to live here. I would like to thank you all for your good wishes, your gifts, cards and letters marking this occasion. Especially I would like to thank all those who have given donations to the two hospices.

Alan Stewart

Dear Editors,

School and Village History

It was a pleasure to write and submit the material for the magazine. It certainly got the lazy brain-cells working.

Many moons ago, my mother and an historian did compile a book concerning the village. I believe other villages did like-wise. The book is kept in the archives somewhere.

Mavis Nickson

But WHERE is it now? Eds

Dear Editors,

Dad's Army Again!

We did notice the mistakes about Dad's Army — lets hope they get it right next time. We are sorry to have to tell you that the man sitting next to Mr A Flack is not Mr Tom Jacobs so we are at a loose end again, never mind folks - have a Happy New Year!

?

AND what's more, Mr Botts is Mr BETTS (correction to last month's correction!). I don't think we'll re-publish that photo quite yet. But see the above letter from the lady who started it all and to whom we've promised an answer, eventually Eds.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I feel I have to write and complain about the picture in your December issue on page 14 regarding The Swaffham Prior Home Guards. As the daughter of the man on the left-hand side back row, he was called John Symonds not Jack Simmons. My uncle was second from the right on the front row name should be spelt Frank Symonds not Frank Simons.

Having lived in the village for a long time I would of expected that Mr Wilkins would of known how to spell SYMONDS correctly as he also taught my late brother at Bottisham Village College. Or he could have just popped down the road to ask my mother how to spell SYMONDS.

Yours faithfully

MRS M E WHITING (Nee SYMONDS)

5 Chaston Road, Great Shelford

It was the Eds fault.....see last month's Crier. Eds

VILLAGE NOTICES

GOOD NEWS

The good news is that we have found someone willing to do new event notices to put on the bypass or around the village advertising village events. He has modern computer printing facilities and is waiting for your requests, His name is:

Steve Lang
12 Tothill Road
☎ 743883



Ron Prime

Dear Editors

The Cancelled Blues Event

The Village Hall Management Committee discussed the matter at its meeting on January 16th. It appears that the bar application was turned down on a technicality and that no objection had been lodged by any person in the village.

The Village Hall Management Committee

So "Mr I Am Important" was Innocent! - Eds

Are you looking to start a new social life now you find yourself on your own?

We all know how difficult it can be to start up a new social life if you are widowed, divorced, or a single person. About twelve months ago, a couple of friends thought it might be a good idea to try setting up a group in order to give these people an opportunity to meet up, say, a couple of so times each month (more often some times!). Not surprisingly, the response from women was higher, but over the last few months the number of male members has risen to 3!

We have recently celebrated our first anniversary and, with the New Year, are wondering if there are any other like-minded folk out there, aged 50+, who are widowed, divorced, or just by themselves and would like to join our group. Our aim is to meet up to help them start a new social life now they are on their own.

Since the group began, we have had many enjoyable events. One or two examples are an Open Air Classics Concert in Ipswich on a lovely balmy summer evening. We packed our picnic baskets, candles and a bottle or two of wine (very carefully) and set off to enjoy a wonderful evening's entertainment. Other occasions that have proved successful over the past year have been quiz evenings, pub lunches/dinners at the weekend, short (2-4 mile) local walks, finishing up with somewhere to have a cup of tea and a bite to eat.

So, if you feel you might like to join our friendly group of like-minded, young-at-heart 50+ people and start socialising again, I'll be very happy to have a chat to put you in the picture as to what we have done over the last 12 months, and what we hope to do in the future. Tele: Joan, evenings after 6.00 p.m. on 01638 507384. I look forward to your call.

MY MEMORIES OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR

I was nine years old when my parents moved to Bramfield in Swaffham Prior and I was taken along to enrol at the village school. I can still recall exactly how Mrs. Dowdeswell looked on the first day that I met her. She was wearing a burgundy coloured suit with a matching, chiffon scarf around her neck and was a bundle of life and energy.

What a joy to read the articles by Mavis Nickson in the recent editions of the Swaffham Crier bringing back memories of my time at that school. The set of values I acquired there, mainly from my contact with Mrs. Dowdeswell and Mavis, have lasted all my life. I, too, trained as a teacher and have been the Headmistress of a village school in West Sussex for the last fourteen years. These two ladies influenced my choice of career and Mrs. Dowdeswell and I sent each other Christmas cards every year until she died. I remember her with great affection as a lady of very high standards and principles, and, although much has changed in the world of education, I try to pass on to the children in my care the Christian values I learned at Swaffham Prior School.

I remember the school looking exactly as Mavis has sketched it and, although I don't remember a flushing loo in the outside toilet block, I do recall the exciting games of kiss chase which always seemed to be played around and — oh so daring — even **in** the toilet block! I also remember the gardening afternoons at Rose Cottage. I hope I was never one of the ones chosen to “work” on Mavis's plot — with my lack of skill in that area I'm sure I would have decimated it! I also recall the trips out to the fields to watch the sheep-shearing, the pond-dipping expeditions and, most exciting of all, the visits to the, then derelict, St. Cyriac's Church. We collected owl pellets and took them back to school where we dissected them. I can still see those tiny, delicate mouse bones emerging from the hard, grey mass.

As I attended the school from 1954 to 56, I can remember the year that Mavis spent at the school as part of her teacher training. I was a very high-spirited girl, and these high spirits sometimes manifested themselves as naughtiness! I can still remember with gratitude Mavis's kindness to me. Her mother, quite rightly, had to be firm and very strict with any bad behaviour and I respected her for it; but Mavis's youth gave her a different approach. Suffice it to say that I make good use of both strategies — and many more learned along the way — when dealing with my “high-spirited” boys and girls! This was the time of the dreaded 11+, and my experience of this was odd. I was considered clever enough to pass underage, and so was entered

but failed. I also failed at age 11 — absolutely paralysed by nerves. I spent a fairly happy year at Burwell Secondary Modern School where, freed from all the pressures, I came top in everything. Unknown to me at the time, Mrs. Dowdeswell, paid a visit to Shire Hall and said, in the strongest possible terms, that I should be at the High School. I took the dreaded test for the third time, passed, and was transferred to Ely High School. No wonder I feel grateful to her, and try to remember her care for one small individual when I am dealing with my little ones.

Mavis mentions the school meals which I remember well and used to gobble up with great gusto. They were delivered in containers and it was considered a privilege to be chosen to take the trolley to the gate and meet Mr. Ransome, the man who delivered them. We were only supposed to push the trolley but, of course, we used to jump on it and ride to the gate if we could get away with it. I can also remember the coming of paper towels and the time when Copydex (I think it may have been called Jiffitex then) was first produced. Mrs. Dowdeswell got so excited about this new product that she stuck two pieces of Hessian together and two of us had to try and pull it apart. She was absolutely delighted when the material tore, but the Jiffitex held fast!

I have so many happy memories of village life. The walk home from school was never dull with the possibility of a visit to the blacksmith or, at the right time of year, the thrill of watching the men dismantle the straw stacks and we children jumping back, squealing, as the mice and rats scampered away for dear life. I can remember the beautiful grey farm horses, so lovingly cared for by Mr. Bulman, as they clip-clopped past my bedroom window pulling their cart loads of hay, straw or manure. I used to love to climb up onto the barn roof when they were released from their harnesses at the end of the day and watch as they galloped across the field, kicking their heels with joy. My friends and I made sure to stay quiet, knowing we would have got the sharp edge of Mr. Bulman's tongue if he had chanced to look up and had caught us! Incidentally, it was his wife, Mrs. Bulman who used to serve our school dinners in those days.

I love coming back to visit Swaffham Prior. A few years ago I returned and spent a few days with Roger and Mary Cook (they kindly sent me the articles which inspired this response) and was so thrilled to see how well the village is being looked after. Many old buildings, which I remember as barns, have been sensitively renovated and turned into attractive dwellings, the cottages appeared to be well cared for — even the windmill was working that day. We walked around the village and I was even shown inside the

school by the kindly caretaker.

My very best wishes to anyone who can remember me.

Sylvia Short. Née Coleman.

Home address: 2, Forge Cottages, Blacksmith's Corner, The Street,
Walberton, West Sussex. BN 18 OPQ.

School address: Ferring Church of England Primary School,
Sea Lane, Ferring, Nr. Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 5DU.

Impressions of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 10 January 2002.

When I was very young I thought it didn't rain at sea. Obviously, there is no point in dropping water onto water, and God's not stupid. (Schoolbooks show rainfall only on mountains too). Imagine the shock of discovering the truth. Similar sensations come over one at PC meetings, yet the 'public gallery' always has spare seats (in a village housing 830 souls). With goodies for everyone, this month's meeting was as good as it gets without refreshments. However, with my allegedly poor hearing (families can be so cruel), accuracy is not guaranteed. Those tempted to complain must instead attend half the meetings in 2002 (probably more than some members). James Fitch gave a brief history of the science used to treat frozen roads. A mix of brine and salt, shaken not stirred, does not blow away but it only works above minus 6 deg.C. Soft speed limit measures with exciting interactive signs to slow down Mill Hill traffic are proposed. Soft speed? Don't ask. It's early days, and nothing can happen before next year, maybe, if then, with a fair wind, so there is time to sit and think about it. Eric Day sat and thought that a 30mph limit is more effective over a shorter stretch, like before, but where were the signs located then? Answers please, on a postcard. The bike path from Lode will continue through Swaffham Bulbeck 'behind the pavilion' (smokers must find somewhere else). Invitations are available, (even for republicans?) to the Garden Party celebrating the anniversary of the accession of QEII, GBH[†] if you were born on the right day - 06 Feb 1952. Anti Social Behaviour Orders are the new thing, but can they be used for noisy neighbours, smoking in public places, speeding along the classy Lower End? Order your behaviour now while stocks last. Stocks



[†] God Bless Her

to mark the anniversary! Stocks always were the right solution for anti-social behaviourists.

When my mind stopped wandering I began to feel I was in a Village Gardeners' meeting by mistake. Of course it's not a mistake to be a gardener. Some of my best friends are gardeners, and it's not anti social either, but the BIG topic now was grass cutting - when, why, by whom, with what? Also hedge trimming, and cemetery maintenance thrown in for good measure - fascinating stuff. Seriously, the cemetery really does look like new, in a manner of speaking. Allotment holders should send their representative to a meeting sometime in April, somewhere, about allotments, I think.

Apparently, in a flush of enthusiasm, when the parish first obtained the playing field, the sporting types undertook to maintain the sports field themselves. Now they want a contribution towards a skip to remove rubbish left there by - whom? After some quiet thought, there was enough doubt about this for the kindly, caring and supportive PC to stump up for a medium size skip. We learn there are small, medium, big, and 'You can't be serious!' size skips. Costs by turn are quite reasonable, a bit steep! blimey! and 'You can't be serious!'. Apparently, there are enough aluminium drinks cans piled up down there to build a lightweight skip. Otherwise, please recycle them. Rumours tell of renewed interest in playing football outside in the freezing rain again (like we used to, and gloves were not allowed in my day, and the leather balls weighed an imperial ton, etc.) not in the warm, inside, undercover, where wimps play. Only these rumours persuaded the normally stern PC to relax their firm grip on the purse strings, so you'd better do it, and keep the place nice and tidy too, or it will be growing turnips next year (a personal view). Not so fascinating, in the meeting's opinion, was discussion about the Code of Conduct - anti-corruption, promotion of virtue and suppression of vice, etc. 'You only need one bad fish in the bowl' said Honest Henry. (Yes, honestly). Look out for lots of expenses-paid foreign trips now - where were the missing members really tonight? Despite enormous enthusiasm from the chair to press on, discussion was postponed just because it was getting late. We left after one party rather injudiciously wondered out loud whether any one would notice if Karen's notes of the last meeting were just repeated.

Well, that's my version. For a true record, see the official notes (unless of course they actually are Karen's old notes). I know I should not take this personally, but no mince pies, no cake, no wine, not even coffee and biscuits (all as part of a carefully calorie controlled diet) were offered. Nothing. And no post mortem at the Red Lion either! What are PC meetings for?

Frank Readhead

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TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the FIRST day of Christmas my true love said to me
I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree

On the SECOND day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into roast turkey a most delicious bird.

On the THIRD day we entertained the people from next door.
The turkey tasted just as good as it did the day before.

Day FOUR relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old.
We finished off the Christmas pud, and had the turkey cold.

On the FIFTH day of Christmas, outside the snow flakes flurried.
We were nice and warm inside when we had the turkey curried.

On the SIXTH day I must admit the Christmas spirit died.
The children got quite cranky, we had turkey rissoles fried.

On the SEVENTH day of Christmas my true love he did wince,
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day EIGHT, nerves were frayed the dog ran for shelter.
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of alka-seltzer.

On the NINETH our cat left home and Dad was getting blotto.
He said he has to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

On the TENTH day the drinks had gone except for home made brew,
And as if that weren't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

The ELEVENTH day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting.
The mince pies were hard as rocks and the turkey was revolting.

The TWELFTH day my true love had a smile upon his lips,
The guests gone, the turkey too, we dined on fish and chips!

*Hope you enjoyed Christmas. And your turkey. Sent by my sister in
Australia.*

Jean Lewis

The Boxing Day Hockey Match

Our usual Non-Resident Hockey Reporter was incapacitated. Spare no tears for him. It was not the result of an intrepid climb up the Himalayas or a struggle through some Brazilian jungle. It was quite simply over-indulgence the night before and he only managed to crawl to the Denny after the match had ended. Not even the flexible rules of the *Crier* could allow a report from such a source.

So, instead, a number of people were asked to give their views of the occasion, and here they are, including a contribution from the now repentant Hockey Reporter.

“Fab! Better than cold turkey on Boxing Day.” Robin Scovil, cheer leader of the Swaffham Prior supporters club.

“They told me it was going to be fun, but it was too cold and windy. I couldn’t believe so many were there without being forcibly carried like me. I shouted a lot, but not about the hockey.” John Atherstone, 5 months and 20 days.

“The hockey match seems to be as much a part of Christmas as mince pies. By the time I arrived this year my son had been forced to retire with a painful knee. His place was taken by my wife Catie. I think she may have connected with the occasional ball - which was exciting.” Peter Whiteley, a staunch supporter over the years, has always been happy to offer his wife to the hockey team.

“If I didn’t know about the integrity of Swaffham Prior, I might have suspected some players had been imported. Bulbeck touch line support was much the best. A great game to watch.” Mark Towriss, ex-star Bulbeck hockey player and now responsible for all resuscitation, splint application and wound staunching.

“They invited me to Boxing Day lunch. But the hors d’oeuvre was watching some madness on a thing called the Denny. I was frozen to the marrow in my lunch gear. This is a blood sport which should be banned.” Barbara Walwyn, a misguided visitor from Hertfordshire.

“A glorious but freezing Boxing Day awaited the Usual Suspects - the Prior 11 and the 17 innocents of Bulbeck for the annual grudge match. It was left to Bulbeck’s Sven Goran Turner to pick the winning team - almost!! Those supporters who weren’t frozen to the spot downed free mulled wine and for reasons unknown left money behind. MAGPAS are now £55 better off. An enjoyable time was had by all.” Rod Smith, maker of the mulled wine and unofficial coach of the Bulbeck team..

“We were too late. The field was as desolate as Culloden Moor, the

vanquished fled, the victorious withdrawn. Not a broken stick, or a lost shin pad, not even a discarded plastic cup with dregs of mulled wine. The armies were gone with their dead and wounded, leaving nothing save boot prints in muddy grass and ghostly cries of triumph and disaster. Only later, over celebratory or commiseratory pints, did we learn the extent of the dazzling defeat. We had missed a massacre. We were like absentees from Agincourt and felt as gentlefolk of Suffolk still abed and thought ourselves accursed we were not there and held our manhoods cheap when any spoke who played with Prior on St. Stephen's Day.

It must have been magnificent - but was it hockey?" Our Non-Resident (and irrepressible) Hockey Reporter.

"My wife says it's time for me to retire. But I won't." John Trapp, Cambridge Blue and the latest in the fine tradition of Bulbeck goalkeepers.

"It was my first day out after my injections, so we went from the farm all the way to Bulbeck to see something called hockey. From my point of view it looked like good fun with this white ball ahead of me on the grass, but my new owner said - 'do not go after the ball as those rather out of breath people will get cross and the ball will probably break your teeth.' Just then I met two very nice Jack Russells, so I was happy." Bill (Willmott), a golden retriever of 20 weeks.

And a special report from Tim Doe:

Tim Doe, the Prior goalkeeper, had been asked to wear something colourful and he turned up in a full Santa Claus outfit. Every time Bulbeck failed to score he, apeline, grabbed the cross bar of the goal and swung himself along it, grunting in a manner which would have made all other residents of Greenhead Road very proud of their boy. His best moments were in the final quarter when, in Schmeichel style, he went up field and had the odd shot at goal. Editorially Tim has been equally irresponsible. Instead of the maximum 50 words he has contributed the following which he asks to be read in the style of Ron Manager of the Fast Show.

HOCKEY.

ISN'T IT?

FROSTED PITCH.

BAMBOO CANES FOR GOAL POSTS.

22 PLAYERS WITH BIG STICKS.

TOUCHLINE SPECTATORS. STUFFED. PLIED WITH MULLED WINE.

MAGPAS.

BEEP! OFF WE GO....

HACK HACK BOBBLE ...OUCH!

COME ON BULBECK!



FORAY INTO PRIOR'S HALF.

GOAL! THAT'S THE LAST GIFT THEY'LL GET FROM SANTA.

NO MERCY!

ORANGES AT HALF TIME FOR THE PLAYERS.

MORE MULLED WINE TO FUEL THE ALCOHOL FRENZIED OF THE SUPPORTERS
BAYING FOR BLOOD!

BEEP!

HACK HACK BOBBLE.... BEEP!

HANG ON A MINUTE; THE REF IS PLAYING FOR BULBECK!

PRIOR SCORING FREELY. DOWN WITH BULBECK. HA!

I'M COLD! I WANT TO BE IN BED!

BEEP! FINAL WHISTLE. PLAYERS SELF CONGRATULATE.

TEAM PHOTO? DON'T MIND IF I DO.

SPECTATORS UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO, THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER.

PITCH INVASION?

CAN'T BE BOTHERED! WHY WERE THEY HERE?

THEY DON'T KNOW BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY, VERY DRUNK AT THE TIME!

Thanks to all the above. The result was 5-1 to Swaffham Prior. I have it on good authority that Bulbeck is planning to take its revenge next year.

A team photograph has been included in this issue and, from the top left hand corner moving clockwise, the team is:- James Whiteley, Charles Gillam, Simon Everitt, Dominic Bowers (captain), Tim Doe, Andrew Atherstone, Mike Carrington, Paul Spiers, James Gillam, Jonathan Pattison and Richard Napier. Catie modestly chose to distract the team with a

celebratory dance on the side rather than appearing in the photograph. Every member of the team slept the night of Christmas Day in Swaffham Prior. However it must be admitted that not all were born in the village. But then, when was the last time all members of the England cricket team were born in England? Does anyone know?

Alastair Everitt



fRIENDS OF
ST. **p**PETER'S
FORDHAM

CONCERT GENEROUSLY
SPONSORED BY
CARTER STREET GARAGE, FORDHAM



SULLIVAN & SCHOOL 2.15PM

WITH **FORDHAM SCHOOL YOUNG MUSICIANS**

CONDUCTOR: ANNIE FREEMAN

SUPPER WITH SULLIVAN 7.30PM

WITH **ST PETER'S, FORDHAM CHURCH CHOIR**

CONDUCTOR: LYDIA CANT



THE STORY OF SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN TOLD BY HIS MUSIC

DIRECTED BY **NIGEL MURFITT**

ROBERT HOPKINS (BARITONE) + ELY SAVOYARDS

CONSTANCE HEALD : GAIL NEWTON : DAVID TICKNER

RICHARD BRAITHWAITE : FIONA GILBERT



THE VICTORIA HALL, FORDHAM, ELY, CAMBS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH 2002 2.15 PM OR 7.30PM



UNRESERVED TICKETS AFTERNOON £4

EVENING (WITH A GLASS OF WINE + CHEESE) £6

AVAILABLE FROM:-

DISCUS MUSIC, THE ROOKERY, NEWMARKET

ARTISTS CORNER, 1 LYNN ROAD, ELY

D N JENKINS, TV & RADIO, FORDHAM

SOHAM BOOKS + THE FRIENDS (01638) 720328



GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE
IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 2nd March at 2.30PM

We require jumble, nearly new items, toys, clothes,
bric-a-brac, books - in fact, anything saleable

Items can be collected by or left with:

Elaine Malster, 28 Fairview Grove (743894)

Trevor Jones, Sheldrick's Cottage, Lower End (741197)

Alastair Everitt, Anglesey House, 59 High Street (742974)

Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall

on Friday 1st March 7.30-9.00PM

or Saturday 2nd March 12.30-1.30PM

We would very much appreciate your help



Cambridgeshire
County Council

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Structure Plan**


In February 2002, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council will start a review of the Structure Plan with an extensive consultation on the issues affecting the area over the next 15 years. The Plan will establish the framework for major new development and infrastructure investment over the next 15 years and beyond. It aims to achieve a sustainable pattern of development that significantly improves the quality of life for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Key components of the new Plan will include providing for new jobs and economic development, more affordable housing, securing infrastructure provision and improving the design of new development and protection of the countryside.

The draft Structure Plan will have a formal period of consultation for 6 weeks between Monday 11 March and Monday 22 April 2002. The Plan could have significant implications for your area and this is your chance to

support or object to the policies that have been drawn up. Copies of the Plan will be available to view at local council offices and all libraries. It will also appear on the Cambridgeshire County Council website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and the Peterborough City Council website (www.peterborough.gov.uk). Copies will also be available for purchase at a cost of £15 by phoning 01223 717791.

In addition, a number of exhibitions and presentations will be held around Cambridgeshire and Peterborough during March and April, where local people will be able to come and find out more about the Plan. A leaflet will be distributed to all households in Cambridgeshire in February advertising the dates and times of the exhibitions. Alternatively, please look on the website for details of dates and times.

 Bus Timetable 111 Monday Saturday Cambridge Drummer St — Swaffham Prior Bus Shelter — Newmarket Rookery	Cam	SP	Nmkt		Nmkt	SP	Cam	
	0710	0739	0814	R	0631	0659	0730	R
	0810	0842	0919	L	0704	0729	0800	
	0913	0939	1019	R		0753	0830	NB
	1010	1042	1119	L	0855	0931	1005	L
	1110	1139	1219	R	0955	1034	1105	R
	1210	1242	1319	L	1055	1131	1205	L
	1310	1339	1419	R	1155	1234	1305	R
	1410	1442	1519	L	1255	1331	1405	L
	1510	1539	1619	R	1355	1434	1505	R
	1610	1642	1719	L	1455	1531	1605	L
	1640	1712		R	1555	1634	1705	R
	1710	1745	1811	L	1655	1731	1805	L
	1740	1812		R	1755	1834	1905	R
	1810	1839	1908	R	1910	1937	2007	R
	1910	1937	2008	R	2010	2037	2107	R
	2010	2037	2108	R	2110	2137	2207	R
	2110	2137	2208	R	2210	2237	2307	R
	2210	2237	2308	R	R—via Reach, NB—not Bottisham L—via Lode Church			
	2310	2337	2408	R				

Local Company scoops export award

Greenseed International part of the Greens of Soham group based at Lords Ground Ltd, Swaffham Prior has definitely sown the seed of success when it comes to export. The company that produces seed potatoes and mini tubers for UK and overseas markets has won the 'Potato/Potato-based Exporter of the Year' category, sponsored by the British Potato Council, at the prestigious Food from Britain and HSBC Export Awards.

This is the first time that Greenseed International has won a Food from Britain Award, which was announced at the annual food and drink export awards ceremony at the Hotel Inter-Continental in London. The award is testimony to the company's success in developing its overseas business despite very competitive trading conditions.

Greenseed International was founded 10 years ago with the aim of producing exceptionally high quality British seed potatoes. As the company's name suggests, export is key to the business. It first entered the international market place in 1995 with shipments of potato seeds to Spain, and since then has expanded into many more overseas markets. Greenseed potatoes are now sold in countries ranging from South Africa to Italy and Chile to Brazil.

Recently Greenseed has made significant export developments in Spain, Balearic Islands & Portugal where demand for high quality British seed potatoes has escalated in recent years. The company's proactive export strategy has beaten off competition from other growers. This has helped export sales to rise by a total of 279% over the last three years. This year, international business accounted for 17% of the company's total turnover.

David Almond, a Greenseed Director, says "Hence the Spanish lorries! Many thanks to the village for putting up with them and for pointing them in the right direction. Best wishes for 2002."

Access to Computers provided by Online Centres

Wherever you live or work in the East Cambridgeshire district, there is no reason why you shouldn't get online today, develop computer skills and learn about the astonishing resources at your fingertips. As part of the Government's drive to 'bridge the digital divide' it pledged (in 2000) that within two years, everyone would have access to an online computer centre.

East Cambridgeshire District Council together with Cambridgeshire's County Library Service, Community Education and host organisations are providing a network of Computer Access Points throughout the area.

Whether you want to shop on-line; find out more information about your hobbies; access sports fixtures, the weather, film listings: find a partner; look for a home; trace friends and family, or simply keep in touch through email contact, (the list is endless) - visit your local centre and find out how the Internet can help. Or, perhaps you just want to learn some basic IT skills, or follow a course that may give you the skills to proceed to an accredited qualification at a Learning Centre or a local College.

As the first local District Council to promote the Government's UK on-line initiative, the East Cambridgeshire On-Line project is running 'Discover Computers Week' from 25-29 February. During that week, a Computer Access Point near you will be open for a couple of hours especially so that you can come along and get a taste of what is on offer. As well as meeting the people involved (experienced people who will provide guidance on using computers and in getting the most out of the Internet), you will also have the chance (if you want) to register for training which includes instruction on many of the popular software packages.

For further information, please contact Tracey Harding, Project Officer, ECDC on 01353 616377, tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk.

I SAW

I saw Swaffham Prior in sunlight,
Then later in the rain.

I saw churches and windmills,
A school, and the pub again.

I saw heathland rise away from
Fen spreading out to the west.
I saw tall trees and cornfields.
These sights put minds at rest.

I saw winding walls and hedges then,
By the tall, proud village sign,
I saw concrete posts and rotting gates
With grubby grey things behind.

(What an I saw.)

Ann Onnie (Miss)

*FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM
VILLAGE COLLEGE*

CEILIDH

AT
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE
COLLEGE

ON
9TH MARCH 2002
7-30—11-30 p.m.

Adults £8 Child £3

Dancing to RSVP

Bar

For tickets contact SUE
on 01223 812194

BOTTISHAM MUSIC SOCIETY

A RECITAL OF PIANO DUETS

PETER BRITTON AND
MARGARET COPESTAKE

WILL PLAY MUSIC BY
SCHUBERT, CLEMENTI, STRAVINSKI
RAVEL AND BRAHMS

IN
BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON
FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
AT 8PM

*TICKETS: £5 AT THE DOOR, ACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE.*

Very scarce creatures:

A Conservation conversation

The Dodo's extinct, and the story goes,
it had a big beak, and eight be-clawed toes.

The Sabre-toothed tiger, has never been seen,
for many a day. Very absent ifs been.

The winged Pterodactyl, scourge of the skies,
has eluded for years, everyone's eyes.

All of these monsters, and many more
have disappeared from the scene, and become lore.

And if we're not careful, many more will become ex-,
as their parts get digested, in the 'interests' of sex.

Ophir Catting.

Forty Years On

On the 10th of February 1962, a full peal of 5040 changes of Plain Bob Minor was rung in the Church of St. Cyriac's in Swaffham Prior. The ringer of Bell No. 2 was Alan Barber, who had been taught to ring by Roger Palmer of Fordham, and was ringing his first peal. The conductor, ringing Bell No. 5, was George Thoday, and Bell No. 4 was rung by Derek Taylor, at that time the Tower captain of Swaffham Prior.

Alan Barber plans to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his first peal by ringing another peal on the same bells on the same date in 2002. George Thoday will again be the conductor, and Roger Palmer will be in the band. So when you hear the bells on the afternoon of 10th February - wish them luck!

Margaret Stanier



Volunteer Responders Wanted throughout Cambridgeshire

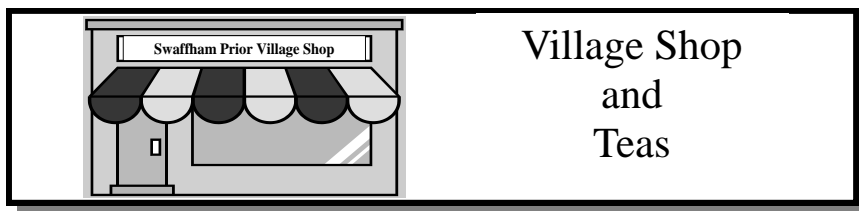
Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Rob Payne and I am the Scheme Co-ordinator for the new Community First Responder Scheme in Cambridgeshire.

MAGPAS (Mid Anglia General Practitioner Accident Service) has been providing *Emergency Support* to the Ambulance Service at any type of incident since 1971 and this year we are launching the First Responder Scheme throughout Cambridgeshire and we urgently need your help.

All first responders will be trained in first aid and in the use of specialised heart monitoring equipment (Defibrillator) to shock a heart in the event of a *Cardiac Arrest*. Each team member on call would attend an incident after being activated via the ambulance service control room and would be trained and equipped with a 1st Aid Kit, Oxygen, Defibrillator, Two Way Radio, Mobile Phone / Bleep etc.

This is an exciting opportunity to become involved in your own community and to provide vital time to a casualty, often saving a life, until the ambulance arrives. The Community First Responder Scheme is designed to complement and work alongside the Emergency Ambulance Service and will NOT replace services delivered by the Ambulance Service.

Do you want to become a First Responder or do you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming one? To find out more, please do give us a call on **01480 371059** and ask for **Rob Payne**, Scheme Co-ordinator who will be happy to discuss the project with you in detail.



THE THURSDAY SWEET SHOP

After the end of January we shall no longer run the sweets counter in the Village Hall on Thursday afternoons, as we explained in the last *Crier*. However, if we feel there is a demand we shall consider re-opening in some form in the Spring or Summer. Meanwhile, there will be a limited stock of eg. Kit-Kat, Twix, Fruit Pastilles available at the Village Hall tea counter from 2.30-4.30 on Thursdays.

Graham Fuller will continue to sell his fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs in the Village Hall Car Park from 2.00-4.00pm on Thursdays until further notice

Betty Prime 741221
Elisabeth Everitt 742974



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Tuesday 15 January

Professor John Parker, Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, led us through an informative history of their growth, demonstrating how the past influences the future.

Obviously the main functions are to aid research and teaching worldwide using the diversity of over 8000 species of plants comprising many National Collections. The University bought the five acre site in 1762 in order to create a Physic Garden for the medical students. Prints from 1836 show the neat and regular arrays of vital medicinal plants.

A new focus evolved with John Steven Henslow, who in 1844 persuaded the University to purchase 40 acres of field in order to celebrate trees and a wider diversity of planting. Some 20 acres belong to National Heritage and so only 20 acres are currently active. A further element of growth was Hobson's Conduit, constructed in 1610, to provide a source of flowing water. The ecology, or growing conditions, native to plants in the wild are accurately demonstrated in various areas eg rock gardens, dry areas, etc.

The winter garden is both visually stunning and informative. The scented garden delights the visually impaired. The gardens are a never-ending source

of scholarly information, ongoing research and practical help. We are all urged to visit the Botanic Gardens as the year unfolds in order to learn, admire and *relax*.

You may like to know that the Garden Club will be visiting the site on 21st May 2002. Please contact 01638 578428 if you are interested.

The next meeting will be about “The Renovation of Madingley Hall Gardens” when our speaker will be Head Gardener Richard Gant. All are welcome in the Village Hall at 8 pm on Tuesday 19th February.

Tricia Harrison



STAINE HUNDRED

Peggy Day was the Speaker at the Staine Hundred Local History Society when she recounted the History of Quy School. Quy School is a typical example of the rise and fall of a small village school over the past two centuries. Quy school was started by the Squire's lady in 1847 when she appointed one of her ex-maids with a family of five, to be the head-teacher. When Mr Clement Francis bought Quy Hall, the school was put on a more formal footing, a new building was put up and more qualified headteachers were appointed. The 1880 Education Act made schooling compulsory for children up to the age of ten but parents had to continue paying for their children's education up to 1891, 2d a week for the first child, 1½d for the second and 1d for any others. An infant room was added just before the turn of the century so that the school could accommodate 75 children. Education became the responsibility of the County Council in 1902, but it continued as a Church of England School until 1929 when the toilet facilities needed improving! The building belonged to the Francis family who leased it to the County Council. Quy School became a Junior School after Bottisham Village College opened in 1937. Mrs Wilson, the head teacher and Mrs Hunt the infant teacher made a good team and worked together for the good of the school and the village for around 30 years, until 1950. Numbers grew just after this as the air-force huts in the park were used for temporary housing and for four years an extra class was held in the village hall. Numbers then dropped back from 60 to around 40 and there were soon rumblings about school closure. To try to prevent this, the PTA added an Activities Hut and raised money for school improvements. However the school was eventually closed in the summer of 1978. The Village Hall Committee were allowed to take over the lease and the buildings were converted into a Village Hall, with the Activities Hut becoming an annexe for smaller meetings.

The next meeting will be on February 13th when Tim Malim will be talking about “Archaeology of the Staine Hundred.”



WI Notes

On 11th January several W.I. members and friends went to see Dick Wittington in Cambridge and enjoy a second childhood.

At our January meeting we had a fascinating evening when Peter Norman brought along a selection of his slides of Old Newmarket. He also brought up-to-date views so that we could compare 'then and now'. Sadly some of the old attractive buildings have been pulled down, like the Congregational Church in the High Street and the building that is now Boots the Chemist and less attractive ones put in their place, but some have hardly changed at all. There were pictures of horse-drawn vehicles and old motor cars queueing along the High Street on Tattersall's sale days, and of the first open air swimming pool at Brickfields; the time there was thick snow along the High Street on 24th April, and many many more. Altogether a most interesting evening.

Our next meeting will be a visit to the Body Shop in the Grafton Centre on 18th February.

Good Neighbour Award.

We were very pleased to present this to Ruth Stinton. Ruth was Clerk to the Parish Council for 25 years, has been on the 'Crier' team since it began, is a pillar of the Baptist Chapel and does many jobs around the village as well as helping her more immediate neighbours. We feel that she truly deserves this award.

Bring and Share Lunch.

Those who were unable to attend missed a treat –there was lots of delectable food and a very friendly atmosphere. All those who came really enjoyed it. The profit of £15 was donated to the Village Hall.

Margaret Phillips

Harvest Supper Leftovers!

Kate Child is delighted that the bowls left after the Harvest Supper have now been claimed. But I still have a wooden chopping board, a stainless steel tablespoon and a teaspoon with a brown plastic handle. Will the owner(s) please ring me on 741221. If they have not been claimed by 2nd March they will go to the Jumble Sale.

Betty Prime.

NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM SURGERY

A happy New Year to all our patients!

This feels like a very notable time to us all at Bottisham Surgery. It marks the retirement of Dr. Alan Stewart after more than twenty-two years service to the surgery and the community and patients that it serves. With typical modesty and humility Alan asks that we say little to mark this very important event. However we, together with so many of the people that he has done so much to help over these years, feel that we must acknowledge our great debt of gratitude to him. Over this time Alan has, in some cases, cared for three or more generations within one family. He has delivered babies, cared for them as children and adults, and in turn, looked after their own children. He has witnessed huge changes in medical care and general practice, from home deliveries and the old Addenbrookes Hospital to high tech. scanners and Primary Care Groups. Throughout, however, he has always sought to give the very best of personal medical care and support to his patients with skill, acumen and wisdom. We will all find it difficult to believe he has really retired, despite his anticipating this for the last 15 years! We will miss him greatly and wish him and his wife Frances a long, happy and very fulfilled retirement.

We are however delighted to be able to welcome Dr Jonathan Higham as our new partner. Some of you will already have met Jonathan who has been working with us on Fridays during the last year. He has worked previously as a GP in Luton, and more recently as a specialist in Public Health Medicine in Bedford. He has four children and lives in Cambridge.

Finally we would like to thank all of you that offered help and support in the opening of the new surgery. We hope that you all agree that it is a great improvement on the old surgery. which served us well for so many years. We are very keen that it should work as well as possible for everyone and we would welcome helpful comments and suggestions which should be made to our practice manager, Mrs. Kate Wright. Please also note our extended opening hours which now include every afternoon except Thursday. Details are available in our practice leaflet and on the Bottisham website at:

www.Bottisham.org.uk.

Donations!

*Thank you to Canon Byron for his
very kind donation to the Crier this
month.*



The Farmers Markets in Ely have proved to be so popular with producers and customers that they are to continue to be held every fortnight throughout the year. They are held on every second and fourth Saturday of the month in the Market Place. The next two will be on Saturdays 9th and 23rd February, starting at 8.30am.

Over Christmas the Minister for Health announced his decision that East Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group and Fenland Primary Care Trust would merge. He made this decision despite the overwhelming public concern and health professionals' concerns that this was not the best option for the people of East Cambridgeshire. I think the decision is regrettable but will now play my part in making sure that the new structure is one which will deliver high quality health care for the people of East Cambridgeshire. Our first task is to ensure that this is a genuine merger with a new Management set up, as was promised in the Health Authority's consultation document. Unfortunately, the proposals made to us before Christmas were for a takeover by Fenland Primary Care Trust with 2 or 3 extra places being created on the existing Management Board for people from East Cambridgeshire. I understand that the Minister has said that this is not acceptable and that there must be a genuinely new structure properly representative of the new area as a whole.

The Community Safety Panel has published its audit of Crime and Disorder in East Cambridgeshire in the financial year 2000/01. It shows a rise in crime over the year of 6% - 204 cases – taking total recorded crime in East Cambridgeshire to 3,607 incidents. This works out at 52 crimes per 1,000 people, which is well below the national average and below the rate for Cambridgeshire as a whole, which is 71 per 1,000 people. For most crimes we are also below the average for our family group. However, there are three areas where we are above the national average and the crime is rising – sexual offences, thefts of motor vehicles and thefts from motor vehicles. This ward is even safer than the average for East Cambridgeshire with just 20-40 crimes per 1,000 people. So we should not be frightened of crime in this area, but nor should we be complacent. In particular, please make sure that you do not leave valuables visible in your car and that you make sure that your car is securely locked whenever you leave it.

Charlotte Cane



COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID JANUARY, 2002.

NEAR SETTLEMENT

As I predicted last month the County Council decided to support the proposal to locate a new 6000 dwelling small town in the Oakington/Longstanton area. Waterbeach came behind and Six Mile Bottom was near the bottom of the list. The plan now goes to public consultation until about Easter and will be subject to a Public Enquiry (P.E.) to determine the Structure Plan as a whole. The Inspector at the P.E. will then report back in the Autumn and the final steps can then be taken to bring the Plan into force. For those of us opposing the choice of Six Mile Bottom, there is considerable relief that we have persuaded the Council not to choose it for good planning reasons. However, we need to keep a wary eye on how the Enquiry goes so that there is not a sudden unexpected surge of support for Six Mile Bottom. After all, some of you may remember before the last Structure Plan the Council advocated a new town on the A10 between Cambridge and Ely. What we got was Cambourn on the A428 west of the City!

COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET STRATEGY

The Cabinet wishes to stick to its suggested increase of 9.3% (£1.19 per week Band D) but it will be necessary to secure full County Council agreement next month before it comes into effect next April. You may be tired of hearing how badly we feel Cambridgeshire (County and Districts) has been unfairly treated with a totally inadequate grant. Nevertheless, it is true. This is why all the Cambridgeshire Councils and the Police Authority are under such pressure and why tax increases have to rise to fund the gaps at a rate over inflation. This is the way the Government carries out its policy of keeping down Income Tax and passing the cost of local services more and more to local councils via Council Tax. Broadly speaking, this year there is common ground on the Budget proposals between the three parties. I see my opposition role as trying to ensure value for the precious money we have available.

EDUCATION - EXAM RESULTS

The percentage of pupils in Cambridgeshire schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C rose last year to 53% well above the national average of 47%. A credit to all staff and pupils involved, bearing in mind we are bottom of the league table for Government cash.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

Anyone born on 6 February 1952 has been invited to a special Garden Party at the Palace on 9 July 2002. Guests may bring one companion each (over 18 years). Applications in writing and accompanied by a copy of the birth certificate should be sent to the Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Box No RES 1108, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP, by 15 February.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council January Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Trevor Jones with 5 members + 2 members of the Public attending.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting for CCC & ECDC.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

Playground Inspection: This year's inspection will be carried out by ROSPA.

Grasscutting: Tenders are to be obtained for this year's grasscutting season. Due to the growing length of the cutting season, a review of the number of cuts for each area is to be carried out.

Following last month's request, the Sports & Recreation Committee has agreed to tidy up the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council agreed to pay for a skip.

Cemetery Path: The price for materials from Travis Perkins was agreed.

Standing Orders: This is ongoing.

Correspondence Received:

ECDC: Details of next Parish Forum – 26/2/02.

“East Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Audit”

CCC: “Restructuring of Highways Division”

General: Parish Paths Partnership - Annual Report & Bulletin.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Application:

21 Fairview Grove – *Two storey extension*. There were no objections.

Any Other Business:

A letter is to be sent to CCC Highways about the possibility of resurfacing the High Street & Lower End.

Brian Hicks is to be contacted about rubbish left at Rand Drove by travellers.

The School is to be asked to trim back shrubs overhanging the wall on the High Street footpath.

Open Question Time: There were no questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14th February 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Notice and Application for Renewal of Public Entertainment Licence

I, Janet Mary Cooper, propose to make application for a public entertainment licence for Swaffham Prior Village Hall to commence on 1st April, 2002.

Any objections should be submitted, in writing, to Mr. S. C. Clements, Executive Director (Environmental Services), East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4PL.

Notice and Application for Renewal of Public Entertainment Licence

I, Brenda Wilson, The Old School House, High St., Burwell Cambridge CB5 0HB, propose to make application for a public entertainment licence for Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School to commence on 1st April, 2002.

Any objections should be submitted, in writing, to Mr. S. C. Clements, Executive Director (Environmental Services), East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4PL.

learndirect has arrived in Bottisham, Burwell and Linton

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- learndirect on 0800 101 901

or visit the learndirect website at **www.learndirect.co.uk**



Church Services

January 2002

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA Reach
SEXA- GESIMA Sun 3	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion ^{CW} 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> [†] — Book of Common Prayer CW — Common Worship </div>
QUINQUA- GESIMA Sun 10	9:30am Parish Communion ^{CW}	11:00am Family Service 6:00pm Choral Evensong [†] (With Cantilena)	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
ASH WED Wed 13		7:30pm Sung Eucharist (With Cambridge Voices In St Cyriac's)	
LENT 1 Sun 17	9:30am Village Communion ^{CW}	11:00am Parish Communion ^{CW} 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
LENT 2 Sun 27	9:30am Parish Communion ^{CW}	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Mattins [†] and Sermon	6:00pm Evening Service ^{CW}

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer

1st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church
 Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach
 Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

Bellringing

Wednesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.

Mothers Union

1st Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.

Toddlers Service

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

2nd Thursdays @ 10:00am for 15 minutes in Swaffham Bulbeck School Hall.

The vicar is never too busy to **visit** anyone on pastoral or spiritual matters.

Dear Friends,

2002 et seq

Some of you will know that this year is the **centenary of the restoration of St Mary's Parish Church**; the *appeal leaflet* went out early last year so that we, in our generation, can contribute to the future of the building that enshrines our prayers, and is available 24x7 as they say, in addition to the 2 services each Sunday (11.00am & 6.00pm mostly) and weekly Evening Prayer on Thursdays @ 5.30pm. The Social Working Group are working on a programme of events to celebrate this special year, not least, with the wider village, two weekends of **Festival** 21st-23rd & 28-30th June. The PCC has decided to move ahead with some of the work to the fabric, much of which has been planned for many-a-long-year, and though the money has not been particularly forthcoming, we have decided to proceed, drawing on our limited reserves to **re-furbish the vestries**. It might even give us an option to sign wedding registers there! The **internal church lighting** has been in need of upgrading for some time, and we hope to progress this too, alongside a re-assessment of the electrical system, so that our worship, concerts & events are enhanced. There are a number of other projects too which we would dearly like to progress, but cannot for lack of money. Could you help us in this in life, or in death? Many give a **weekly envelope** to sustain the work of the church, and some of you are extremely generous with 'one-off' **gifts**, not least on our annual Gift Day in early September; please keep it up, and encourage your friends and neighbours!

The **life of our parish church**, though, in human terms, is what exercises my mind daily - I have always been pleased with the wide constituency of people who clean the church and those who adorn it with flowers, but there is still that nagging sense that the village don't "own" their parish church as well as they might. Our attendances are not good, even for a village of around 700 souls, though I am pleased that Jan Petersen's hard work with 2nd Sunday 11.00am family services is bearing fruit. After 8 years with you, I hope you would expect me to say that I am disappointed that more people don't avail themselves of 'an hour with God' week-by-week. We pride ourselves on decent worship and music, (organists travelling from Ely, Soham, Whaddon or Lode each week), and even preaching (never too long!), and the opportunity to be amongst village friends is always there; I am grateful for so many good things that do happen, but it is 'thin-going' on many Sundays, so why not give us a try? In addition, there are so many small tasks that need doing on a weekly basis, and we really do need to exercise good stewardship in this area, so that we harness local skills as best we can. Please have a word with me privately if you would like to be involved in some way but have hitherto been reticent! Please remember it's **not the vicar's church, it's yours!**

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** will be in the School Hall on Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm; when the village will elect 2 churchwardens, and those on the church's electoral roll (see the separate note about this) will vote for new parochial church council members (it meets 5 times per year). We really need your support and interest on this important occasion; do come for what will be only

1 hour+ of business (packs of APCM papers will be available in church from Easter Sunday 31st March) and will be followed by a glass of wine or two. I hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely,
Mark

From the Parish Registers for December/January

Holy Baptism: Matthew Benjamin Hamilton Dods [SB]
Iona Molly Mitchell [SB]
Olivia Jade Bryant [SP]

In Memoriam: Frederick Leslie Sturgess (70) [SB]
Dennis George Brown (8) [SP]

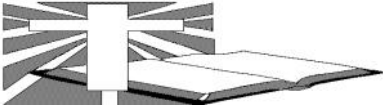


Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of a Church is not to be confused with the Electoral Roll of a local authority, though it is similar in purpose. It is a list of baptised lay members of a church who live in the parish or who are regular worshippers. Membership means being able to speak at and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the parish. It is a way of ensuring that the people of a parish Church have a representative voice in its affairs. The Roll is updated yearly by the Electoral Roll Officer, appointed by the Church Council, but every six years every Church must begin a completely new Roll. This Roll must be in place before the next APCM and so we have begun the process of enrolling members. This must be done ‘from scratch’ and even if you have been on the Roll for many years you will still need to complete and sign an application form. These forms, along with a sheet explaining the Electoral Roll in more detail, are now available in St Mary’s. If you have any questions about whether or not you qualify, or what is involved, please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Mr Eric Day, 26 High St (tel: 742448), who will be happy to help you.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1700;
Kirtling: Sun 0945;
In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).



Zion Baptist Chapel

Love Story...

On Valentines Day the greeting card industry will make a fortune again this year. They encourage us to send cards proclaiming our love. Of course there is nothing wrong with proclaiming your love to someone. In fact it is a lovely and romantic idea. But where did the custom come from?

There are lots of stories associated with Valentines Day. Some say it started with Saint Valentine, a Roman priest who was martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith and for continuing to marry couples despite marriages being banned by the Roman Emperor Claudius. He died on February 14, 269AD. Legend says that he fell in love with his jailers blind daughter while he was in prison awaiting death. He is supposed to have miraculously restored her sight. Before his execution he sent her a farewell note (evidently she had learned to read amazingly quickly) signed "**From your Valentine**". So Valentine's Day has become the day we send a card or gift to someone we love as a mark of love and affection.



Also in February the season of Lent begins. This gives Christians a time for reflection to remember God's great gift of His son Jesus to the world that He loves. And as Easter approaches Christians focus on the symbol of God's love, the cross which demonstrates just how far God was prepared to go to show us that love. He was prepared to give up the life of His son Jesus.

How far will you be going on Valentine's Day to show someone you love them? The cost of a card is huge, but God paid the ultimate cost to show us His love. He signed his gift of love "**From your God**". Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift -Jesus!

If you want to find out more about God's love ask at your local church, or get in touch with me on the number below or via the Chapel post box.



David Bousfield



For further information, transport, or a home visit please call
David & Janet Bousfield on 01223-563307.

Dates for Your Diary - February 2002

Fri	1	
Sat	2	
Sun	3	
Mon	4	
Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm ☎ 01223 712000 (Renewals) 742850 (Village) 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch ☎ 743992
Wed	6	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	7	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas 7.30 School Governors
Fri	8	
Sat	9	
Sun	10	2.00 Church Bells Peal Attempt
Mon	11	1.30 School Trustees, Goodwin Manor
Tue	12	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch CLEANAWAY Collection Day
Wed	13	Staine Hundred meeting
Thu	14	Crier Copy Deadline! 7.30 PC Meeting, VH. 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri	15	
Sat	16	
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI visit to Grafton Centre
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch Village Gardeners, VH 8pm, ☎ 578428
Wed	20	
Thu	21	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri	22	
Sat	23	
Sun	24	
Mon	25	
Tues	26	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch
Wed	27	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thur	28	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas